

abreast of the latest trends in legal education. Individual initiative and research have been encouraged, seminar courses have been established, and the faculty and student body knit more closely together. The student body is as select a group as possible, and student organizations have been encouraged. Student self government became a reality with the organization of a Student Bar Association in 1933. Thus sound leadership and a stimulating student cooperation have combined to create a worthwhile school of law at Ohio State University, one which will in the future, as in the past, perform adequately a necessary service.

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The Student Bar

It was a little over a year ago that there was the first rumbling of the Student Bar Association. The Seniors had staged their famous Funeral March of Campus Politics. These potential lawyers, whose forebears once had successfully elected Maudine Ormsby, the bovine pride of Ag Alley, as the queen of Homecoming, now dolefully carried the campus political bier up the Long Walk and into the waiting hearse. And behind the mourners marched Johnny Walker et al. dragging the Page Hall Homecoming contribution—the Queen of Sheepa.

It may be that there is no connection between this vaudeville exhibition and the Bar Association. It sounds a trifle queer on the surface to even suggest it. But many feel that this performance did much to unite the Seniors as a class. And once they had proved to themselves that they could carry through a project, they were ready to tackle something else—a bit more serious perhaps. Fortunately for the Law School, Stan Wilder's idea of the Student Bar Association happened along at this time. Stan had gone to Duke University the year before and had seen their association in successful operation. He mentioned it to some of his friends. The talk spread. Carl Tucker, Senior Class president, conferred with Dean Arant about its possibilities. He was immediately enthused. A meet-

ing of the entire Student Body was held in the Commerce Auditorium in early November and Carl presented the plan as it was working at Duke University. Before the meeting adjourned the Student Body had gone on record as favoring such an Association but no definite steps were taken.

Finals came on and plans drifted for a while. However, shortly after the start of the Winter Quarter each class selected three of its members to serve on a Constitution Drafting Committee. And steps towards the Bar Association had begun in earnest. The Seniors elected were Alfred Mayer, George Neal, and Robert Wills. The Juniors picked Robert Leach, Charles Ross, and William K. Thomas. The Freshmen selected John Kramer, Ogden Outhwaite, and Joseph Stern. George Neal was chosen Chairman and Charles Ross secretary at its first meeting. With the pattern of the Duke Association as its guide, the Committee set to work. Line by line, paragraph by paragraph, section by section, the Constitution began to take shape. Of course, as always, when men attempt to pierce the future's haze and gauge the proper roads to take there is necessarily much difference of opinion. This committee had its share of divergence on many questions. Should the Executive Committee include the Section Chairmen or be limited to the officers? Should the Freshman President be elected in the Fall or Winter quarter? What ground should be marked off for potential Bar Association projects? What should be the scholastic requirements for participation as members and as administrators. And so they went.

In retrospect on some of the desires and plans of committee members the presence of certain dubiousness on the part of other members seems strange in the light of the months that have passed. For instance Joe Stern's enthusiastic hopes of a Bar Association publication (even if it had to be mimeographed) seemed then extremely visionary to those who were still skeptical of the future. A Legal Aid Section was included without any real hope that anything would materialize before a year or so had passed.

There was the necessity of molding the recently undertaken project of writing Ohio Bar notes into the Publication Section. For the Committee was sure that the Bar Association must stretch its arms out and coordinate every form of student activity in the Law School. Else all would be meaningless. For

the same reason it was felt that the administration of the Honor System should be drawn within the aegis of some division of the Student Bar Association. Question succeeded problem and detail followed policy as the quarter hurried on.

Finally all the apparent incongruities and difficulties were ironed out, the last revision for style and form was completed and the Committee reported its proposed constitution to the Student Body. On the floor of the assembly only two changes were made: (1) the scholastic requirement for members was lowered from 2.0 to 1.8 and the requirement for officers and section chairmen was decreased from 2.3 to 2.0, and (2) it was decided that only one regular meeting a quarter instead of one a month should be stipulated.

Then Winter Finals and vacation came on. Back from vacation it was a week or so before the Drafting Committee (which had been designated by the Constitution to act as the first nominating committee) submitted the slate of officers. With the election out of the way, the last hurdle to the actual starting of the Student Bar Association had been finally cleared. Section Chairmen were soon chosen and their plans laid for the remainder of the year. The Legal Aid Section was the first to commence operations. The success of these Spring Quarter weeks are described elsewhere. The Publications Section or rather the Bar Notes division of this section began its series of bar notes which appeared in the Ohio Bar from the last week of April on into the summer. Two meetings of the Bar Association were held to consider pertinent business. At the first of these a resolution was passed requesting the Board of Trustees to assess each Law student one dollar a quarter to finance a publication and other projects of the Association. Thus the force which was to finally result in the Law Journal of the Student Bar Association was set in motion. The Law School Affairs Section also got under way. Through the help of William Georges whose experience with Moot Court work at Harvard aided us greatly, the Section completed a docket of some dozen cases. Freshmen and Juniors participated, and Seniors presided.

And so the idea that in the Fall was nothing more than fodder for the three and nine o'clock "hall sessions" had now been translated into a tangible living Body. True it was still but a baby learning to walk. But the important thing was that

here before our eyes had emerged the Student Bar Association. Reality had supplanted doubtful conjecture.

This quarter the field is opening up still more. A book barter system with many dollars savings to the students has been established. The Moot Courts have been slow in starting but will be ready to roll at the first of the Winter Quarter. The Bench and Bar committee has held its first Law School get-together—the Fall Quarter Climax. The Law Schools Affairs Section has taken on a new role—Grievance Committee for the Law School. The cases at the Legal Aid clinic are increasing in number and varying more in subject matter. The Legislation Section is producing articles for the Law Journal. And finally the high point of this quarter is the publication of Volume 1, No. 1 of the Law Journal of the Student Bar Association. At last our students shall have something to spur them on to legal research and creative writing about the Law. The Journal should bring the loose threads of our activities together and keep the members better informed about what is happening in other Sections. The potential values of the Journal are many. Every student who seeks them will obtain them for the asking.

Measured in abstractions what does all this mean. It means that the Student Body has thrown itself shoulder to shoulder alongside the Faculty towards the goal of better lawyers. It means that all of us have become conscious that the classroom by its nature can go only so far in the production of qualified lawyers. It means that beyond its scope lies the training of men in other needed lines—preparing briefs; gaining experience in interviewing clients; making research into special problems of the Law; sharpening their ability to think on their feet; conditioning them to perform a fuller service to the community and in inculcating the best ethics of the legal profession. The Bar Association is geared to function in this field beyond the classroom. It may fall short of a full accomplishment of these many purposes but if in any way Ohio State turns out better lawyers because of its program—Who is there who will question the candle?

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